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The Medical Officer of Health's

# ANNUAL REPORT

for



Eastry Rural District

1963

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S

## ANNUAL REPORT

for

EASTRY RURAL DISTRICT

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### IN OFFICE

Chairman of the Council	...	...	...	Councillor C. F. Carnell, J.P.
Chairman of the Public Health Committee	...			Councillor Mrs. M. T. Barr.
Clerk of the Council	...	...	...	W. Wilmott, Esq.
Senior Public Health Inspector	...	...	...	W. H. Sayers, Esq., C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.
Surveyor	...	...	...	{ R. J. Meacher, A.I.A.A., M.R.S.I. (deceased July, 1963). R. H. Ruston, Esq., A.M.I.Mun.E., M.I.P.H.E. (commenced October, 1963).

To the Chairman and Members of Eastry  
Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

The Annual Report on matters concerning the public health in 1963 is presented. The report of the Chief Public Health Inspector which you have already received in Council is also attached.

The population of the District shows a very gradual increase and is now 500 over the 1961 census figure, totally 22,830, an increase in the two years of 2.2%.

The birth rate of 16.6 per 1,000 population was on a level or slightly above that for England and Wales when corrected for population make-up (Eastry 18.8 = England and Wales 18.2), and the illegitimate percentage of 5.25% was below the national average of 6.9%.

The death rate of 15.8 per 1,000 population when adjusted for the local concentrations of elderly in establishments in the district, gives a comparable rate of 11.2 for Eastry against 12.2 for England and Wales.

The much higher rate of deaths in males compared to females up to age 65, and especially in the 55 to 64 age group, warrants some mention. It is well known that while nature decrees an excess of male births over female births, the proportion balances itself by the mid 30's due to the apparently greater vulnerability of the male, or rashness. Four young males died in motor vehicle accidents, and all the deaths in the 15 - 25 years age group were males. There is, however, in the 45 - 64 years age group, a marked preponderance of male deaths in two groups of causes, namely coronary disease and cancer of the lung and bronchus. This age group contains the men carrying responsibility, and casualties, especially unnecessary casualties can upset the course of management, production, and the conversion of know-how and experience into beneficial results. It carries off men whom we can ill afford to lose.

What is the remedy other than to train for the fifties as one trains for youthful athletics. Diet and exercise wisely and conscientiously used should be the rule of the 40's and the saving grace of the fifties. This is not so much to achieve longevity for its own sake, but to achieve a comfortable and healthy middle age and senescence. The fuller enjoyment of life and the ability to get satisfaction from what you do with it is a healthy objective.

May I express my appreciation of the help and co-operation of the Council's Chief Officers and thank you for the good hearing which you give to my advice.

MALCOLM S. HARVEY  
M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

## 1. WATER SUPPLY.

The Rural District is supplied from the sources of three separate water authorities. The Deal Borough (whose source is now taken over by the Thanet Water Board), the Mid-Kent Water Company and the Thanet Water Board.

### Area of Supply - Population Served - Source of Supply - Consumption.

The Borough of Deal supplies Sholden Village, the Royal Cinque Ports Golf Links area and nineteen properties on the Deal/Ripple boundary, and the source of supply is from chalk wells and adits at St. Richard's Road, Deal. The consumption of water during 1963 was 40 gallons per head per day for all purposes, representing 30 gallons domestic and 10 gallons trade.

The Mid Kent Water Company supplies an area of approximately 25,000 acres with a population of approximately 12,428. The source of water is from Martin Mill Pumping Station and the consumption of water during 1963 was 169 million gallons.

The Thanet Water Board supplies an area of approximately 26,975 acres with a population of approximately 9,660. The majority of the area is supplied from Wingham and Woodnesborough Pumping Stations - adits in chalk. It is not possible to give a figure in respect of the consumption in the Eastry Rural District alone as the source also feeds other areas, and only the total output is metered.

### Quality of Water.

The water supplied by the Borough of Deal is clear and bright in appearance, just on the alkaline side of neutrality and free from iron and other metals. The water is hard in character but not to an excessive degree and it contains no excess of mineral constituents. It is of satisfactory organic quality and of the highest standard of bacterial purity. It is pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes. The FLUORIDE CONTENT is 0.08 parts per million. It is not plumbo-solvent.

The water supplied by the Mid-Kent Water Company is a pure and wholesome water, hard in character but not excessively so. It is of good organic purity and is free from objectionable metals. It is non plumbo-solvent and the FLUORIDE CONTENT is 0.1 parts per million.

The water supplied by the Thanet Water Board is clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from iron and other metals. The water is very hard in character but not excessively so and it contains no excess of mineral constituents. It is of very satisfactory organic quality. From the chemical analysis these results are indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes. It is not plumbo-solvent and the FLUORIDE CONTENT is 0.15 parts per million.

All three supplies are chlorinated as a reasonable precaution.



Quantity.

There were no shortages during 1963.

Number of dwellings supplied from public water mains	...	7576
Number of dwellings not supplied from public water mains		17
Total number of dwellings in the area	...	7593
Number of dwellings supplied from public water mains direct to houses	...	7569
Number of dwellings supplied from stand pipes	...	7

RESULTS OF SAMPLES TESTED DURING 1963

		Bacteriological			Chemical		
		No. of Samples	Satisfactory	Not Satisfactory	No. of Samples	Satisfactory	Not satisfactory
Statutory Supply Undertakings	Raw						
	Treated	11	11	-	-	-	-
Private Sources	Raw	15	6	9	-	-	-
	Treated	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Private Sources (Manston Civil Airport)	Raw	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Treated	3	3	-	1	1	-

Swimming Baths.

In the Eastry Rural District there are three swimming pools. These are situated at Betteshanger School, Wingham Primary School and an open air club at Sutton.

All are outdoor, and are fresh water pools, unheated. The pools are all chlorinated. The source of supply is mains water.

The school pools are small (hold approximately 3,000 galls) but the Club Pool holds 22,500 gallons.

## 11. SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Main drainage has been provided by the Council for the following villages: Ash, Aylesham, Eastry, Elvington, Goodnestone, Minster, Sholden, Wingham, Woodnesborough and Worth.

Main drainage has also been provided by the owners of property at Snowdown and Betteshanger Colliery Village, while the existing sewerage system installed at Sandwich Bay has been taken over by the Council.

Further schemes were in course of preparation for the sewerage of Monkton, Preston, St. Nicholas-at-Wade, Wingham Well and Wingham Green, while the extensions of the Disposal works at Minster and Dambridge (Wingham) were due to be undertaken in the near future.

Small sewage plants have also been provided for all Council housing schemes where main drainage facilities are not available.

A scheme for cesspool emptying and cleansing of pail closets in those parishes not served by main drainage schemes is provided, a charge being made for emptying cesspools in excess of three vehicle loads per quarter.

Where main drainage schemes are now available the Council has agreed to bear 50% of the cost of converting a pail closet to a water closet.

## III. HOUSING.

### Inspection.

Routine housing action during 1963 originated in the main from information gained under the Rural Housing Survey completed in 1950 and, in addition, inspections arising from complaints from tenants, Health Visitors, the National Assistance Board and other bodies. All applications to the Council for re-housing are passed to the Health Inspector by the Housing Manager and any references in these to unsatisfactory housing conditions are investigated.

During 1963 some 1,178 visits were made in connection with the Housing Acts by the Public Health Inspectorate staff.

Tabulations on housing work are given in the Chief Public Health Inspector's report, pages 7, 8 and 9, but are here summarized.

There were during 1963 a total of 66 houses rendered fit by informal action.

No use was made of Public Health Act powers in remedying unfitness. 17 houses were demolished by the owners in pursuance of demolition orders and in no case did the Local Authority require to step in and do the demolition. Demolition orders were made on six houses during 1963 and there were 20 houses at the end of the year covered by such orders and not yet demolished. Two houses were closed during the year and the total number displaced by demolition orders, closure or demoliton was 31 persons.

No clearance or redeveloped areas were declared during the year. There were no unfit houses in temporary use other than those declared unfit from which tenants awaited re-housing. The Council decided to end the occupation of the Hammill block of low standard accommodation which had served its purpose for the housing of problem tenants, but had ceased to be effective.

#### Overcrowding.

There was one new case reported and three cases relieved, the latter involving twelve persons. At the end of 1963 there were still two known cases of overcrowded dwellings involving three families and sixteen persons. The Inspectors made thirty-two inspections on overcrowding cases.

#### Improvements and Conversions.

The Council approved 52 out of the 54 applications for Discretionary Grants, 20 owner occupied, 26 agricultural dwellings and six tenant occupied. The Chief Public Health Inspector gives details of the grants.

Standard Grants were given in 18 cases, 13 of which were for owner occupied houses.

It is probable that at the end of 1963, four out of five house-holders did not understand Improvement Grants. One benefit of routine house to house inspection is the opportunity it gives for the Inspector to explain the purpose and scope of this method of preserving and improving a house.

#### Rent Act, 1957.

One Certificate of Disrepair was issued and none cancelled.

#### Other Accommodation.

There were no cases coming to notice of houses let in lodgings or houses in multiple occupation in which some action to improve conditions was necessary.

There are no common lodging houses in this district.

#### Hop Pickers Dwellings.

Eleven visits were made by the Inspectors to the one Hop Pickers Camp which accommodates 30 - 40 pickers.



### Camping.

It has been a feature of recent years that holiday makers are taking to camping, with elaborate equipment and gregarious intent. It is no longer the lone camper with his primus stove and billy can and his trained regard for clearing the site and covering his tracks. It is the car or motor cycle transported invasion of the coastal fringe, fed by pre-packed food with litter as its end product, and unversed in field hygiene. Either private enterprise must meet the need for planned sites, water supply and sanitation, or else local authorities must meet the need to preserve the amenities and protect the public health by doing it themselves. Exclusion is not the answer.

### Caravan Sites.

The ten licensed sites with 74 residential and 518 holiday caravans were supervised by a total of 162 inspections by the Public Health Inspectors. Six unsuccessful applications were made for new sites. Too many of these caravan sites are static holdings with little provision for the roving holiday caravaner. Thus they are of little help to the persons who brings his caravan by road to the area. In many cases they are the modern equivalent of the seaside holiday letting.

## IV. PREVENTION OF NUISANCE.

### Collection and Disposal of Domestic Refuse.

During the year 1963 weekly collections to all parts of the District were introduced. Refuse is disposed of by means of "controlled tipping". There was one central tip near Eastry, with plans for another to serve the northern part of the District.

### Pest Control.

(Under the Pests Acts of 1949 and 1955). The Council re-introduced free treatment of private dwellings from 1st April, 1963. There was a marked increase in the number of rat and mouse infestations found and treated. The destruction of wasps nests is a service that is welcomed and can reduce much trouble to a locality. Twenty-six were destroyed by the Rodent Operative. Modern insecticides properly used are fully effective, but tracking down of the marauder's nest is the first objective in which an observant member of the public can help his neighbours.

The Chief Public Health Inspector gives the figures on rodent destruction on page 12 of his report.

### Atmospheric Pollution.

No action was required under the Clean Air Act, 1956. The trouble experienced in the village of Eastry arising from the Tilmanstone spoil bank did not recur and the measures taken seem to have proved effective.



### Smell.

The use of slaughterhouse waste as farm manure in the Ash locality did not give rise to the previous nuisance experienced, which indicates that this product properly stacked and covered and ploughed in as soon as spread is manageable without discomfort to the inhabitants.

### Noise.

The cherry picking season brought its complaints about the use of electronic bird scarers. We recognize the battle of wits that has to be fought by the grower against the robbing birds if loss of crop is to be reduced, and how difficult it is for him to turn his thoughts to the effect of that war on the peace of nearby humans. Those under stress, night shift workers, and an apparently random selection of individuals, are much upset by the recordings of frightened birds which are transmitted by loud speaker intermittently throughout the orchards. But the puzzle is why the rest of the public, by far the majority, cease to notice the noise after the first few hours, or what is more likely, succeed in rationalizing it into their daily life.

The birds may overcome the scare and remove this annual menace of the public's peace.

## V. FOOD AND FOOD HYGIENE.

### Meat.

There is one licensed slaughterhouse operating in the District and 100% meat inspection is carried out.

Meat is also inspected at place of sale or in transit, on complaint or in the course of inspecting the district, (see Chief Public Health Inspector's report pages 13 and 14). There is one knackers yard in the District.

### Milk.

There were forty-one registered distributors in the District handling pasteurised, sterilized or tuberculin tested milk. No bacteriological checks of washed churns or bottles were made as the County Food and Drugs department sample designated milks. No milk sampling was done.

### Ice-cream.

There are ninety-two premises registered for the sale of ice-cream, all of it made outside the District and pre-wrapped. Occasional samples were taken (see page 12 of Chief Public Health Inspector's report) and were either Grade I or II.

Food Premises.

Number of food premises in the area ...	180
Number of food premises registered under section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955 ...	122
Number of inspections of registered food premises	245

Food Hygiene (General) Reg. 1960 and Food Hygiene (Docks, Carriers, etc) Reg. 1960.

During the year 496 routine inspections were made and two cases of contraventions were reported to the P. H. Committee and warnings sent.

No statutory action was taken during the year 1963.

There were six complaints received regarding unsound food.

VI. WORKING CONDITIONS.

Factories Acts: Inspections made for the purposes of provisions as to health in factories were as follows:-

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	3	3	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the L.A.	58	50	1	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	-	-	-	-
Total:	61	53	1	-

In seven cases sanitary conveniences were found to be unsuitable or defective and in four cases the matter was remedied. No cases of other defects were found and none were referred by H.M. Inspector of Factories.

Only one outworker was reported and none otherwise identified. The outwork was in the manufacture of lampshades. The necessity to report outworkers to the Public Health department is generally understood by employers. It is important for the prevention of transmission of infection and the avoidance of work being carried out in unwholesome premises.

#### Shops Acts.

The Inspectors made 153 inspections under this delegation.

#### Agricultural (Safety, Health & Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956.

No action was called for under the provision. Observation is maintained during the season when pickers of soft fruit, greens and other harvests are employed. It is not an easy Act to apply.

### VII. INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

It was a Measles year and a total of 304 cases were notified with concentration in the third quarter of the year. The age distribution of cases is shown in the tables, from which it will be seen that the years immediately preceding school entry and in the Primary School years carry the heaviest incidence. If measles vaccination is developed as a public health measure, its usefulness will be in the 1 - 3 year old children in order that they may carry the protection into the school years, but in the beginning of any campaign of measles vaccination, protection of the 5 - 9 year olds with no history of measles will be needed to break the biannual epidemic sequence.

Sonne dysentery, the common form of dysentery in this country, was more common than for some years. Out of the 47 notifications, 27 occurred in a local chronic sick hospital. There was also a prevalence connected with a children's unit.

One case of Food Poisoning attributed to Salmonella Typhi Murium of unknown origin was reported.

#### Tuberculosis.

The Mass Radiography Unit visited the district to carry out a limited survey in one locality, as a precautionary measure considered necessary because of one infection that had arisen. The survey was helpful to the Chest Physician investigating contacts, which is done as a routine in all newly diagnosed cases. The incidence of new cases of Respiratory Tuberculosis fell to eight cases.



## VIII. OTHER MATTERS.

### Section 47, National Assistance Act.

Action was found necessary in the case of an elderly old age pensioner, who had done occasional farm work and lived in a small wooden hut. Chronic bronchitis and mild heart failure made removal from the squalid conditions essential. He had been dependent on good neighbours for adequate meals. Mental handicap contributed to the situation, and his doctor despaired for the patient's safety.

A bed for the case having been obtained in the appropriate Chronic Sick hospital, and his doctor having provided the necessary supporting certificate, on the persistent refusal of the patient to accept admission, the Clerk to the Magistrate was approached about an Order. The Clerk and a Magistrate attended with me at the hut only to find that the case had solved itself. The Ambulance had arrived early and Bill responding to the uniform went willingly before we reached the scene. Nobody really resented the outcome. A willing patient is a task of healing well started. An order for removal is liberty, however misused, denied to one who finds the world difficult enough already. It remained to follow Bill to hospital, to see him settled in and to ask the District Officer to help with his affairs.

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APPENDIX I.

## STATISTICS.

Population Mid 1963 - 22,830 persons.

Area of District - 54,276 acres.

Vital Statistics.

Live Births: 380 (Male: 182) (Female: 198)

Live Birth rate per 1,000 population = 16.64 (England & Wales 18.2)  
Correction factor 1.13 = 18.8 per 1,000 corrected birth rate.

[illegible]

Total live and stillbirths: 389

Infant deaths:           6           (Male:     4)           (Female:     2)  
                              (all legitimate births)

Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 live births (total) = 15.8 (England & Wales 20.9)

Neonatal Mortality: 5 = 13 per 1,000 live births.  
(first 4 weeks, actually all under 1 week)

Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births: 5.25%  
(England & Wales 6.9%)

Maternal Deaths: Nil.

Deaths all ages: 360 (Male: 193) (Female: 167)

Death rate = 15.8 per 1,000 persons. (England & Wales 12.2)  
(Correction factor 0.71 gives 11.2 per 1,000 population)

Perinatal Mortality Rate: 36  
(Deaths under 1 week and stillbirths per 1,000 live and stillbirths)

# APPENDIX II.

## Infectious Disease Incidence.

The following tabulations shows the incidence and age distribution of cases during 1963:-

	Quarters of Year				By Age Groups						Totals:	
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	0-4	5-9	10-14	15+	65+		1963	1962
Scarlet Fever.	1	2	4	-	4	3	-	-	-		7	3
Measles.	7	54	185	58	115	162	21	6	-		304	35
Whooping Cough.	-	3	6	16	14	6	3	2	-		25	5
Pneumonia.	6	1	1	1	-	-	-	7	2		9	4
Dysentery.	7	4	15	21	5	14	14	13	1		47	8
Menigococcal Infection.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-
Poliomyelitis.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-
Food Poisoning.	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-		1	-
Puerperal Pyrexia.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-		1	-
					0-4	5-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Total:	
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	2	1	3	2	-	-	3	3	1	1	1	8
Tuberculosis (Other)	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	2



Immunization and Vaccination.

(From information provided by the  
County Medical Officer of Health)

Smallpox.

61 children received primary smallpox vaccination (live births 1963 = 380, represents 16% of possible).

Diphtheria.

	<u>0-4 yrs.</u>	<u>5-9 yrs.</u>	<u>- 15 yrs.</u>	<u>Total:</u>
Primary:	279	6	1	286
Re-inforcing:	163	102	4	269

Whooping Cough.

277	3	-	280
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Poliomyelitis.

	<u>0-2 yrs.</u>	<u>3-6 yrs.</u>	<u>6-20 yrs.</u>	<u>20+</u>	<u>Total:</u>
Primary Protection:	318	35	22	49	424
4th Re-inforcing dose:					253

Causes of Death

	<u>1963</u>	<u>1962</u>
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	1	2
" (Other)	-	1
All other Infectious or Parasitic Diseases	1	1
Malignant Neoplasms. Stomach.	7	5
" " Lungs & Bronchus.	11	12
" " Breast.	6	7
" " Uterus.	2	2
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms.	31	26
Leukaemia and Aleukaemia.	2	1
	(59)	(53)
Diabetes.	2	-
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System.	48	35
Coronary Disease. Angina.	54	52
Hypertension with Heart Disease.	9	13
Other Heart Diseases.	56	71
Other Circulatory Diseases.	16	14
	(185)	(185)
Influenza.	4	2
Pneumonia.	25	18
Bronchitis.	16	13
Other Diseases of Respiratory System.	2	2
	(47)	(35)
Ulcers of Stomach and Duodenum.	5	1
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea.	-	-
Nephritis and Nephrosis.	1	4
Hyperplasia of Prostrate.	1	1
Pregnancy. Childbirth. Abortion.	-	-
Congenital Malformation.	3	5
Other defined and Ill defined Diseases.	46	32
Motor Vehicle Accidents.	5	2
All other accidents.	4	3
Suicide.	2	3
Male:	193	181
Female:	167	147
Total:	<u>360</u>	<u>328</u>
Death Rate:	15.8	14.5

Ages at death	Under 1	1 - 5	5 - 15	15 - 25	25 - 35	35 - 45	45 - 55	55 - 65	65 - 75	75 and Over	Total:
Male	4	2	1	7	2	1	8	33	43	92	193
Female:	2	-	1	-	1	1	8	22	40	92	167
Total:	6	2	2	7	3	2	16	55	83	184	360

# APPENDIX IV

The following are typical results of samples of water from Martin Mill Pumping Station and Wingham and Woodnesborough Pumping Stations:-

MARTIN MILL WATER			
PHYSICAL CHARACTERS			
Colour .....	None	Taste .....	Normal
Turbidity .....	Clear & Bright.	Odour .....	None
CHEMICAL ANALYSIS (PARTS PER MILLION)			
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.00	Free Co <sub>2</sub>	25
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.00	Chloride (Cl)	28
Nitrate Nitrogen	8.5	Sulphate (S14)	-
Nitrite Nitrogen	absent	Calcium	247
Oxygen Absorbed (3 hrs. @ 27°C)	0.04	Magnesium	28
Alkalinity (as Ca CO <sub>3</sub> )	233	Iron	absent
Total Hardness (as Ca CO <sub>3</sub> )	275	Manganese	absent
Carbonate Hardness (as Ca CO <sub>3</sub> )	233	Silica	-
Non-Carbonate Hardness (as Ca CO <sub>3</sub> )	42	Phosphate	0.01
Total Solids (dried at 180°C)	378	Conductivity	-
P.H.	7.2	Residual Chlorine	0.04

Remarks on Martin Mill Water - This analysis indicates a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply. The bacteriological condition is very good.



WINGHAM WATER			
PHYSICAL CHARACTERS			
Colour .....		Nil	Taste ..... Normal
Turbidity (A.P.H.A. units)		less than 3	Odour ..... Nil
CHEMICAL RESULTS (PARTS PER MILLION)			
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.00	Free CO <sub>2</sub>	24
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.00	Chloride (Cl)	60
Nitrate Nitrogen	7.4	Zinc	absent
Nitrite Nitrogen	absent	Copper	absent
Oxygen absorbed (3 hrs @ 27 °C)	0.10	Lead	absent
Alkalinity (as Ca CO <sub>3</sub> )	230	Iron	absent
Total Hardness	285	Manganese	-
Carbonate Hardness	230	Silica	-
Non Carbonate Hardness	55	Phosphate	-
Total Solids	420	Conductivity	610
P.H.	7.3	Residual Chlorine	-

Remarks on WINGHAM WATER - This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from iron and other metals. The water is hard in character but not to an excessive degree. It contains no excess of mineral constituents and it is of very satisfactory organic quality. From the aspects of the chemical analysis these results are indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.

# WOODNESBOROUGH WATER

## PHYSICAL CHARACTERS

Colour .....	Nil.	Taste .....	Normal
Turbidity .....	Nil.	Odour .....	Nil

## CHEMICAL RESULTS (PARTS PER MILLION)

Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.00	Free CO <sub>2</sub>	40
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.00	Chloride	38
Nitrate Nitrogen	8.1	Zinc	Nil
Nitrite Nitrogen	absent	Copper	Nil
Oxygen absorbed (3 hrs @ 22°C)	0.10	Lead	Nil
Alkalinity	260	Iron	Nil
Total Hardness	340	Manganese	-
Carbonate Hardness	260	Silica	-
Non Carbonate Hardness	80	Phosphate	-
Total Solids	460	Conductivity	640
P.H.	7.1	Residual Chlorine	-

Remarks on WOODNESBOROUGH WATER: This sample is clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from iron and other Metals. The water is very hard in character but not excessively so and it contains no excess of mineral constituents. It is of very satisfactory organic quality. From the aspect of the chemical analysis these results are indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.





EASTRY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

-----  
ANNUAL REPORT

of the

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year

1963.



To the Chairman and Members of  
The Easry Rural District Council.

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Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report upon various aspects of environmental hygiene with which your Public Health Inspectors have been associated during the year 1963. This report is deliberately presented to you as early as practicable after the end of each year, in the hope that its contents may serve as a guide and stimulus to what should be undertaken in the year ahead.

Following reference in my last report to shortage of staff, I am pleased to record that the Council appointed an additional public health inspector from 1st June, with the result that arrears of work have been overtaken, and I feel confident that we shall be able to carry out additional duties arising from new legislation.

HOUSING.

At last re-housing has begun to keep pace with demolition and by the end of the year, the number of families living in condemned houses had been reduced from thirty-three to thirteen. Against a total of eight demolition and closing orders made during the year may be balanced three orders revoked and forty-four houses which were modernised.

Ideas and standards of fitness in housing are constantly changing and, if it is now accepted that a fit house should possess the amenities necessary to qualify for an Improvement Grant, then existing houses can be divided into two categories - those that are capable of modernisation and those that are not. The latter must then be considered for demolition or closure. A few years ago I recommended as a target the elimination of every pail closet within the district - may I now suggest we should broaden the aim to include the provision of not less than the five standard amenities in every dwelling house i.e. a bath, wash-basin, internal W.C., hot water supply and foodstore. Although voluntary action by owners has resulted in over six hundred improvement schemes since 1954, it is unlikely that the target can be reached by voluntary action alone, and much will depend upon the nature of the provisions for compulsory improvements contained in the new Housing Bill.

A report on Hammill Hutments was presented to the Housing Committee in May, following which it was decided to end their use for housing purposes. It was right that the experiment should have been made and equally right that after a fair trial, it should have been brought to an end, but unfortunately the problem of the real "problem family" is still unresolved.

To those engaged in housing work, it becomes increasingly noticeable how changing standards of living are reflected in occupants attitude towards the condition of their houses. Far greater concern is now expressed at the absence of modern amenities than to structural defects, and dampness becomes a cause for worry, not for any possible effect upon health, but rather for the damage it causes to internal decorations.

Complaints of dampness in modern houses continue to be received and upon investigation are invariably found to be due to condensation. It may well be that the tenants themselves contribute to the conditions of which they complain but, should a modern house react so violently to changes in temperature and humidity? One can sympathise with the feelings of tenants who, moving to a new house and without changing their way of living, experience a quite unpleasant form of dampness which, whatever it is called, they never experienced in the old.

#### DRAINAGE AND SANITATION.

Drainage is an important factor in environmental health and forms an essential part of the work of the department. All plans deposited for approval under the building bye-laws are referred to the Public Health Inspectors for examination of drainage proposals and more than three hundred such plans were seen during the year. All drainage work, both to new private houses and alterations and additions to existing houses, is supervised while under construction and is tested upon completion. There has been a welcome increase in the number of internal waste stacks installed in the district and all are subjected to stringent air or smoke tests.

Steady progress has continued in connecting houses to the new sewers in Woodnesborough, Ash, Sholden and Worth, and by the end of the year, two hundred and eighty dwellings out of a total of three hundred and sixty-seven within reach of the sewers had been connected, resulting in the abolition of two hundred and fifteen cesspools.



Efforts to eliminate the pail closet continue and during the year the Council contributed half the cost of conversion to water closets in thirty-two cases. Altogether a total of seventy-seven pail closets were abolished, good progress no doubt, but leaving no room for complacency while over five hundred remain. All who possess and take for granted an internal water closet, would do well to remember that in an age which boasts of automation and computers, in this district alone the sole sanitation of many hundreds of their fellows is still a pail closet, often situated up to sixty feet from the house.

### CARAVANS.

There are now ten caravan sites in the district licensed to accommodate seventy-four residential and five hundred and eighteen holiday caravans. No additional sites were licensed during the year, although six applications were made but failed to secure planning permission.

Whatever views may be held on the suitability of caravans as permanent family homes, they undoubtedly meet a genuine need for those whose employment takes them for short periods to different parts of the country. Unfortunately, they are rarely accepted on licensed sites and invariably end in desperation, seeking help from the public health department. Where they are engaged on Civil Engineering or similar projects within the district, might not the local authority assist in some way?

The past two years has seen a trend towards camping once again, although tents and equipment are generally more sophisticated and in keeping with the motor age. It is mainly limited to the months of July and August when in fields close to the sea, tents appear like mushrooms overnight. Whilst the odd tent or two presents no problem, large numbers crowded into a limited area with inadequate water supply and sanitation, even for a short period can be a matter for public health concern.

Earlier hopes of a solution to the problem of winter quarters for travelling folks, appear to have been somewhat premature, since progress over the past twelve months has been little more than an administrative exercise from which, however, one fact clearly emerges - wherever the site may be that is finally chosen, it will not be welcomed by those living in the locality.

## FOOD HYGIENE.

Constant visits are made by inspectors to all food premises within the district in order to ensure that standards of food hygiene are maintained, but there is still much that can and should be done by the public themselves. The customer who observes undesirable and unnecessary handling of food, for example cooked meat or dairy products, or is served by an assistant wearing dirty clothing, who licks fingers or has other objectionable habits, should at once bring it to the notice of the shopkeeper and, failing satisfaction, notify the public health department. In fairness to the shopkeeper who is naturally very sensitive to the loss of regular customers, it is better that he should be told than to transfer custom elsewhere without the reason being known.

There is now no excuse for unwrapped food to be placed on open counter tops, exposed to handling, coughs and sneezes from all and sundry, and it can usually be avoided without the purchase of expensive fitments by a little intelligent re-arrangement of stock.

It may not be generally realised that the Council's Public Health Inspectors, all of whom are also qualified Meat and Food Inspectors, are concerned not only with the hygienic handling and storage of food, but no less with its fitness for human consumption. From time to time specimens of food are brought to the department but it should be more widely known that any person having food that they suspect may be unfit, should bring it to the office of the Public Health Inspector where it will receive expert examination and if necessary can be submitted for laboratory examination.

## RODENT CONTROL.

There was a noticeable increase in the number of rat and mouse infestations found and treatments carried out during the year, and in the late Autumn the Council's one Operative was hard put to cope with the many requests for treatment. This may have been in part due to the fact that the Council re-introduced free treatment of private dwelling houses from 1st April.

During the summer months the Operative is also engaged in disinfestations and each year there is an increasing number of requests for his assistance in the destruction of wasps' nests, twenty-six of which were destroyed during the year.

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I should once again like to express my appreciation of the support and encouragement received from the Chairman and Members of the Council during the year and the continued help and co-operation from all members of the staff.

Your obedient servant,

W.H. SAYERS

Senior Public Health Inspector.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS DEPARTMENT.

Senior Public Health Inspector:

W. H. SAYERS.

Cert. S.I.B.

Cert. Meat & Food Inspection.

Cert. Smoke Inspector.

Deputy Public Health Inspector:

A.H. LAWRENCE.

Cert. S.I.B.

Cert. Meat & Food Inspection.

Additional Public Health Inspector:

P. J. BREWER.  
(Commenced 1st June, 1963)

Cert. S.I.B.

Cert. Meat & Food Inspection.

Clerk:

MRS. E. WITCOMBE.

Rodent Operative:

P. U. LAWRENCE.



SECTION A.HOUSING(1) Formal Action taken under the Housing Act, 1957.

No. of houses reported under Section 16	...	...	...	14
No. of Demolition Orders made	...	...	...	6
No. of Closing Orders made	...	...	...	2
No. of houses demolished	...	...	...	17
No. of Demolition Orders revoked	...	...	...	3

(2) No. of houses made fit as the result of Informal action.. 66

(3) Improvement Grants.(a) Discretionary Grants.

Total No. of houses in respect of which Grants have been approved since July, 1954	...	...	...	627
Total expenditure involved	...	...	...	£447,059
Total of Grants approved	...	...	...	£168,425

Grants approved during the year 1963:-

(1) No. of dwellings in respect of which Grants were approved	...	...	...	...	...	52
Owner/occupied	...	...	...	...	...	20
Agricultural dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	26
(2) Total cost of schemes approved	...	£41,462	(Average £797 per dwelling)			
(3) Amount ascribed to improvements:	£32,625					
(4) Amount ascribed to repairs:	£8,837 (Average £169 per dwelling)					
(5) Total of Grants approved:	£15,934 (Average £306 per dwelling)					
(6) The maximum grant of £400 was approved in 10 cases.						

(b) Standard Grants.

Eighteen applications for Standard Grants were approved, thirteen being in respect of owner/occupied houses.

The following is a summary of the major works to be carried out with the aid of Grants approved during the year involving a total of seventy dwellings:-

<u>Lighting and Ventilation Improved:</u>	...	...	20
<u>Hot water supply provided:</u>	...	...	69
By Gas	...	...	2
" Oil	...	...	1
" Electricity	...	...	27
" Solid Fuel	...	...	39
Combined cooker/water heater			28
Open fire with Back Boiler			6
Independent Boiler	...		5
<u>Bathrooms provided:</u>			
Within existing buildings	...	...	43
Built on to buildings	...	...	22
<u>Drainage systems provided:</u>	...	...	25
<u>Space heating provided:</u>			
Electric power points	...	...	23
Approved solid fuel open fires	...	...	15
<u>Foodstores constructed:</u>	...	...	49

(4) Rent Act, 1957.

Certificates of Disrepair:

- (1) No. of applications for Certificates of Disrepair: ... .. 1
- (2) No. of Certificates (issued in previous years) cancelled ... .. NIL

(5) Overcrowding.

- (a) (i) No. of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ... .. 2
- (ii) No. of families dwelling therein ... .. 3
- (iii) No. of persons dwelling therein ... .. 16
- (b) No. of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... .. 1
- (c) (i) No. of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... .. 3
- (ii) No. of persons concerned in such cases ... .. 12

SECTION B.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

(1) Water Supply.

The various parishes in the Rural District are supplied by three Water Undertakings:-

- (a) The Thanet Water Board.
- (b) The Mid-Kent Water Company.
- (c) The Deal Borough Water Undertaking.

Supplies are drawn from deep wells in the chalk and there are pumping stations within the district at Acol, Minster, Wingham and Woodnesborough.

There was no shortage of water during the year and eleven samples taken from main supplies were reported as satisfactory.

Out of a total of 7,593 dwelling houses in the district, seventeen only are now without a piped supply and seven draw a main supply from standpipes. Fifteen samples were taken from private wells, nine of which were found to be unfit.

(2) Drainage.

The following is a summary of work carried out during the year:-

No. of visits in connection with drainage work	...	2060
Testing of drains: No. of water tests applied	...	466
No. of mirror       "       "	...	400
No. of air         "       "	...	40
No. of smoke       "       "	...	27
New buildings - drainage supervised and tested	...	126
Existing buildings provided with drainage systems		34
Existing buildings - drainage altered or repaired		84
Buildings connected to sewers - New Houses	...	104
Existing	...	152
Cesspools constructed	...   ...   ...   ...   ...	62
Septic tanks constructed	..   ...   ...   ...   ...	16
Cesspools abolished	...   ...   ...   ...   ...	215
Pail closets converted to water closets	...   ...	77



(3) Pail Closets.

The following table shows the approximate number of Pail Closets existing in the various parishes:-

Parish.	No. of Dwelling Houses	Approximate No. of Dwelling Houses with Pail Closets.
ACOL	71	-
ASH	850	61
AYLESHAM	1136	-
EASTRY	636	7
EYTHORNE	623	16
GOODNESTONE	139	45
MINSTER	880	3
MONKTON .	143	13
NONINGTON	227	47
NORTHBOURNE	273	26
PRESTON	211	33
RIPPLE	125	16
SARRE	43	7
SHOLDEN	208	18
STAPLE	138	48
STOURLMOUTH	90	17
ST. NICHOLAS	252	6
SUTTON	248	20
TILMANSTONE	102	14
WINGHAM	554	34
WOODNESBOROUGH	353	75
WORTH	291	15
TOTAL	7593	521

(4) Rodent Control.

	Local Authority Property.	Dwelling Houses.	Business Premises.	Agri- cultural Property	TOT
No. of properties visited.	9	129	62	502	70
No. found to be infested.	7	117	46	204	37
No. of properties treated.	7	95	36	76	21
No. of visits in connection with treatments.	67	339	170	396	9

SECTION C.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(1) Milk Supply.

There are forty-one milk distributors registered in the district and all milk sold by retail for human consumption is specially designated, i.e. Pasteurised, Sterilised or Tuberculin Tested.

(2) Ice-cream.

There are ninety-two premises in the district registered for the sale of ice-cream and in all of these the ice-cream is pre-wrapped.

Results of Sampling:

<u>Number taken:</u>	<u>Grade I.</u>	<u>Grade II.</u>	<u>Grade III.</u>	<u>Grade IV.</u>
10	6	4	-	-

(3) Inspection of Meat & Food.Carcases and offal inspected at Slaughterhouse and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	-	-	-	266	321	-
Number inspected.	-	-	-	266	321	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis &amp; Cysticerci.</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned	-	-	-	6	22	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci.	-	-	-	2.25%	6.85%	-
<u>Tuberculosis only.</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned	-	-	-	-	7	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	2.18%	-
<u>Cysticercosis.</u>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cases submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

Total weight of carcasses, parts of carcasses and  
offal rejected for all diseases.

	Cwts.	Qtrs.	lbs.
Carcasses ... ..	-	-	-
Parts of Carcasses ... ..	1	-	-
Offal ... ..	1	1	1
TOTAL ... ..	2	1	1

The Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963, which came into force on 1st October had little effect in the district as one small slaughterhouse only is in use and 100% inspection has been carried out for many years. Carcasses are now stamped as required by the Regulations, but the Council decided to make no charge for inspections unless there should be a substantial increase in slaughtering.

In addition to meat surrendered at the slaughterhouse, the following food was inspected at the request of traders and surrendered as being unfit for human consumption:-

Canned Food.

Meat	...	...	...	...	...	19 tins.
Fruit	...	...	...	...	...	7 "
Beans	...	...	...	...	...	2 "

Other Foods.

Meat	...	...	...	...	...	232 lbs.
Bacon	...	...	...	...	...	16 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
Ice-cream	...	...	...	...	...	1056 portions.



## INSPECTIONS

A total of 4,921 visits were made by Public Health Inspectors during the year and the following table gives an indication of the proportion of time devoted to various duties:-

In connection with the Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	1178
In connection with Rents Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
In connection with Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	577
Water Supply	..	...	...	...	...	...	24
Drainage	..	...	...	...	...	...	2060
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	82
Butchers Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	47
Other Food Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	245
Restaurants	..	...	...	...	...	...	88
Bakehouses	..	...	...	...	...	...	43
Ice-cream premises	..	...	...	...	...	...	9
Poulterers	..	...	...	...	...	...	7
Street Traders	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Factories Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	56
Hop Pickers' Camps	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	71
Shops Acts	..	...	...	...	...	...	153
Caravan Sites	...	...	...	...	...	...	162
Knackers Yard	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Public Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	66

## COMPLAINTS

One hundred and thirty-four complaints were made to the Department during the year on the following subjects:-

Housing Defects	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
Accumulations of refuse	..	...	...	...	...	...	10
Vermin	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Fly & Wasp Infestations	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Unsound Food	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	11

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